

What is claimed is :

1. An image forming optical system comprising:  
in order from an object side,  
a first lens which is meniscus lens having positive refractive power  
and a convex surface directed toward an object side, an aperture stop,  
5 a second lens which is meniscus lens having positive refractive power  
and a convex surface directed toward the object side, and a third lens  
having negative refractive power.

2. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, wherein at least  
10 one of surfaces of the third lens is aspherical and the following  
condition is satisfied:

$$-2.0 < \Phi_m / \Phi_p < 0$$

where  $\Phi_m$  represents the power of the third lens at the position  
of the maximum light height and  $\Phi_p$  represents the power of the third  
15 lens at the position of the near axis.

3. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the  
following condition:

$$-2.0 < (r_{1r} + r_{2f}) / (r_{1r} - r_{2f}) < 1.0$$

20 where  $r_{1r}$  represents the radius of curvature of the first lens at  
the image side and  $r_{2f}$  is the radius of curvature of the second lens  
at the object side

4. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the  
following condition:

$$0.1 < r1f / f < 1.0$$

where r1f represents the radius of curvature of the first lens at the object side and f is the focal length of the whole image forming optical system.

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5. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following conditions:

$$0.2 < f12 / |f3| < 1.5$$

$$0.5 < f / |f3| < 2.0$$

10 where f12 represents total focal length of the first lens and the second lens, f3 represents the focal length of the third lens and f represents the focal length of the whole optical system.

6. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following condition:

$$-5.0 < f1 / f23 < 3.0$$

where f1 represents the focal length of the first lens and f23 represents the total focal length of the second lens and the third lens.

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7. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following condition:

$$5.0 < (v1 - v3) / (v2 - v3) < 1.5$$

25 where v1 represents the Abbe's number of the first lens, v2 represents that of the second lens and v3 is that of the third lens.

8. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the

following condition:

$$0.4 < \text{EXP} / f < 1.5$$

where EXP represents the distance of the exit pupil from an image plane and f is the whole focal length of the image forming optical system.

9. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following condition:

$$0.55 (1/\mu\text{m}) < \text{Fno} / P(\mu\text{m}) < 2.10 (1/\mu\text{m})$$

10 where Fno represents the F number fully opened and P represents the pixel pitch of an imaging element which has an imaging plane at the image forming position of the image forming optical system.

10. An imaging optical system according to claim 1, satisfying the following condition:

$$0.05 < \text{ML} / \text{TL} < 0.35$$

where TL represents whole length of the image forming optical system and ML represents the minimum thickness on the axis of a plastic lens constituting the image forming optical system.

11. An electric device equipped with the image forming optical system of claim 1.